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R 012046Z JUN 79
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 905

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s): _____

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full

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[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 4429

E.O. 12065: XDS-1 6/1/90 (CASTRO, RAUL H.) OR-M

TAGS: AR, SHUM

SUBJECT: STRATEGY DISCUSSION WITH ISRAEL AMBASSADOR ON
TIMERMAN RELEASE

1. (ENTIRE TEXT).

2. YESTERDAY NOON (MAY 31) I LUNCED WITH ISRAEL AMBASSADOR
RAM NIRGAD AT EMBASSY RESIDENCE TO DISCUSS STRATEGY ON HOW
BEST TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF JACOBO TIMERMAN.

3. AMBASSADOR NIRGAD TOLD ME GENERAL VIOLA HAD BEEN QUITE FRANK
IN TELLING HIM TIMERMAN'S RELEASE WAS NOT IMMINENT. SUPPOSEDLY
VIOLA EXPLAINED HE FAVORED TIMERMAN'S RELEASE BUT KEY
ARMY LEADERS OPPOSED RELEASE FOR FEAR TIMERMAN WOULD WRITE
AN EXPOSE AND STIR PROBLEMS FOR ARGENTINA. NIRGAD INDICATED HIS
READING WAS AF COMMANDER GRAFFIGNA AND NAVY COMMANDER
LAMBRUSCHINI WERE INCLINED NOT TO FIGHT TIMERMAN'S RELEASE.

4. I THEN SUGGESTED TO MY COLLEAGUE OF ADVANTAGE OF ALERTING
TIMERMAN TO ASSUME A MORE HUMBLE ROLE WHEN TALKING TO
VISITORS. I REMINDED ISRAEL AMBASSADOR OF MY IMPRESSION
OF MY LAST INTERVIEW WITH TIMERMAN ON APRIL 12. AT THAT TIME
TIMERMAN CAME IN QUITE STRONG AND PROCEEDED TO INDICATE
TO ME THE MENTAL INFERIORITY OF MOST ARGENTINES. HE ALSO
TOLD ME OF HOW HE HAD OFFERS FROM NEW YORK TIMES AND VARIOUS
[REDACTED]
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AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES TO EXPOSE HIS EXPERIENCES DURING HIS
ARREST. HE INDICATED HIS RESULTING BENEFIT WOULD BE VERY

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FAVORABLE COMPENSATION HE ALSO DESCRIBED TO ME HOW HE WAS TORTURED AND HOW SOME OF HIS FELLOW CELL-MATES WERE LIKEWISE TORTURED. I INDICATED TO NIRGAD THAT UNQUESTIONABLY TIMERMAN'S ROOM WAS "BUGGED" AND THUS ARGENTINE FEDERAL POLICE WERE PRIVY TO TIMERMAN'S CONVERSATIONS. I EXPLAINED GOA'S RELUCTANCE TO RELEASE TIMERMAN COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO PERHAPS STATEMENTS OVERHEARD BY POLICE REFERENCE HIS WRITING FOR NEW YORK TIMES ETC.

5. AMBASSADOR NIRGAD CONCURRED AS HE HAD THE SAME EXPERIENCE. WE HAVE BOTH EXPLAINED THIS SITUATION TO RABBI MARSHALL MEYER, AN AMERICAN AND HIS SPIRITUAL COUNSELOR. RABBI MEYER HAS AGREED TO CAUTION TIMERMAN ON HIS STATEMENTS DURING DETENTION. NIRGAD FURTHER EXPLAINED TIMERMAN WAS ASSUMING A MARTYR ROLE AND HOW HE LOOKED UPON HIMSELF AS AN INTERNATIONAL CELEBRITY.

6. NIRGAD STATED CURRENT STRATEGY IS TO HAVE TIMERMAN WRITE A LETTER TO ALL THREE MEMBERS OF THE JUNTA RECOMMENDING THAT HE BE EXPELLED FROM ARGENTINA AND HE BE ALLOWED TO GO TO ISRAEL. HERETOFORE, GOA HAD SUGGESTED TIMERMAN APPLY FOR RIGHT OF OPTION. IT WAS THEN EXPLAINED TO GOA TIMERMAN WAS NOT UNDER THE PEN, THEREFORE, INELIGIBLE FOR RIGHT OF OPTION. GOA CAME BACK AND STATED THIS WAS A MERE TECHNICALITY AS TIMERMAN COULD BE PLACED UNDER PEN AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE. ON ASKING GOA WHAT GROUNDS WOULD BE USED TO PLACE TIMERMAN UNDER PEN, THE REPLY WAS WHY WORRY ABOUT GROUNDS AS IT CAN BE DONE. NIRGAD STATES TIMERMAN IS OPPOSED TO THIS SUGGESTION AND IS INSISTING HE BE EXPELLED FROM HIS HOME-LAND.

7. TIMERMAN IS WORKING ON THE LETTER TO THE JUNTA GIVING
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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REASONS WHY HE SHOULD BE KICKED OUT OF ARGENTINA. TIMERMAN HAS PROMISED TO SEND A COPY OF THE DRAFT TO THE ISRAEL AMBASSADOR, WHO IN TURN HAS PROMISED TO KEEP ME INFORMED. NIRGAD STATED HE WILL TAKE THE DRAFT TO AN ATTORNEY, SPECIALIZING IN CRIMINAL LAW, TO BE SURE THERE ARE NO PITFALLS IN THE LETTER.

8. NIRGAD SAID TIMERMAN IS QUITE LEGALISTIC AND NOT AN EASY CLIENT. AMBASSADOR NIRGAD STATED HE HAS TRIED TO IMPRESS TIMERMAN FIRST OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE TO ACHIEVE FREEDOM. HE HAS TOLD TIMERMAN THAT WHAT HE DOES AFTER LIBERTY IS GAINED IS HIS BUSINESS. NIRGAD STATED HE WILL TRY TO CONVINCE

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TIMERMAN NO ONE WANTS TO SILENCE HIM ABOUT ARGENTINA'S
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. FIRST THINGS COME FIRST, THUS ALL
EFFORTS ARE BEING GEARED TO HAVE TIMERMAN RELEASED.
CASTRO

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